
introduced in 1993. In Italy, efforts to instill the political system with greater stability continued with the introduction in February of a new majority based electoral system for the 15 regions of the country. At the same time corruption probes of Mafia links to Italian politicians continued throughout the year.

Following presidential elections in April and municipal elections in June, France brought in constitutional changes in the fall widening the scope for national referenda to cover bills dealing with "the general orientation of economic and social policy" and the "organization and operation of public services". In Germany, the opposition in Bavaria won a court judgement which would force the government to hold plebiscites at the municipal level on issues directly affecting the population. Throughout 1995, the German Laender continued to implement EU regulations permitting non-German EU nationals to participate in municipal elections in accordance with EU efforts to deepen the democratic principles underlying european integration.

MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS

The OSCE, which has long played a key role in supporting new democracies through its Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), was assigned the responsibility to supervise the implementation of the election provisions of the Dayton accords. This level of responsibility assumed by the OSCE in Bosnia is far beyond anything undertaken by the OSCE or ODIHR in the past. ODIHR was also active in support of elections in the former Soviet Union and, undertook for the first time, a cooperative program with the UN in support of elections in Armenia in July which was subsequently duplicated in Azerbaijan in November. Canada provided technical support to both of these joint initiatives.

Building on the democratic principles contained in the Harare declaration, the Commonwealth adopted the Millbrook Action Program at the November Heads of Government Meeting in Auckland, New Zealand. Under the agreement, the Commonwealth called for continued support for democratic institutions and, for the first time, gave the organization an explicit mandate for Commonwealth responses when democratic principles were dramatically violated. An eight member Foreign Minister's Action Group (CMAG) comprised of Canada, NZ, UK, Jamaica, Malaysia, Ghana, South Africa and Zimbabwe was created to recommend collective responses to flagrant or persistent violations of the Harare principles. A largely Canadian initiative, this democratization plan targeted Nigeria, Gambia and Sierra Leone for immediate attention.

Negotiations and the dispatch of an eminent persons group to assess the democratic